

# WASHINGTON

## A RICH COMEDY IN THE HOUSE

### Congressional Muddle Over a Negro Celebration.

#### A Magnanimous Darky—He is Willing to Fraternize with White Folks.

#### Hearing of the Legal Tender Cases Postponed.

#### Attorney General Hoar's Resignation Determined Upon.

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1870.

Notwithstanding the contradictions of the report that Attorney General Hoar is about to retire from the Cabinet, he has excellent authority for retreating. It is information that Mr. Hoar will return to the shades of private life about the middle of next September, and that a prominent Pennsylvania lawyer will succeed to the direction of the Law Office of the government. The thing has been arranged between the President and Senator Cameron, so that it may help the party in the Keystone State in the October election. The Pennsylvania have all along been complaining of executive neglect in not recognizing the claims of their State to a Cabinet position. Senator Cameron has been one of the loudest in contending for State rights on this point, and the President, weary of the incessant importunities, has finally yielded. Cameron thus gets the power in his own hands once more; though what particular good the Attorney Generalship will be to his State in turning an election is not patent, unless old Simon proposes to clean out all the little district attorneys and menials appointed under the over-riding Hoar. Let it be understood that Hoar retires entirely at his own request, and not through any dissatisfaction entertained by the President. Mr. Hoar has been in full accord with the President from the moment of his appointment until now, and only quits the place because, as some say, he prefers private to political life, or, as others say, because of the bitter disappointment he experienced when rejected by the Senate as a fitting candidate for the Supreme bench.

A Rich Comedy in the House—Muddle Over a Negro Celebration—Quarrel Among the Rival Amendments.

The House to-day passed a resolution under a suspension of the rules, just after the morning hour, giving the use of the hall of the House to the negroes for a celebration of the ratification of the Fifteenth amendment next Wednesday evening. The resolution was offered by a carpet-bagger from North Carolina, named Dockery, and was carried through as a party measure. Afterwards a resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a committee of the House to make arrangements for participating in the celebration. Among those appointed on the committee was Sumner Cox and Eldridge, of Wisconsin, both Democrats. The announcement of their names on such a committee was the occasion of general merriment in the House, and both Democrats and Republicans enjoyed a hearty laugh at their expense. Cox took the thing good humoredly, and improved the occasion to get back a reply to Butler's famous "shoo, sir" hit. Eldridge blushed up to the roots of his hair and laughed at the fun, but he positively declined to have anything to do with the affair. Late in the afternoon, just before the adjournment, Judge Kelcey, of New York, moved to rescind the action of the House, granting the use of the hall and appointing a committee. A large number of the radicals had gone home and Kelcey's resolution to rescind was carried.

In the meantime the special committee, consisting of Dockery, Allison, Maynard, Cox and Eldridge, had been escorted down to the House where claims are generally discussed. Sergeant-at-Arms Ordway, who takes a great interest in the Mayor Bowen branch of the republicans, acting as master of ceremonies, conducting the committee in a dignified manner to the room, where they were to deliberate. A tremendous crowd of interested darkies and twenty whites or so were about the room, waiting anxiously for the arrival of the committee men. There were howlites, anti-Bowenites and some few independent. When the two democratic members—Cox and Eldridge—made their appearance the darkies cheered lustily, taking it as a great honor that so-called copperheads should condescend to participate in a purely African affair. Dockery, the chairman, took his seat and called the meeting to order, when half a dozen darkies immediately jumped up to speak. One O. Peters, a colored friend of Bowen, was the first recognized, and made a speech in favor of his own of the question. Then a big buck negro with spectacles got on his feet and commenced a very amusing discourse in regular plantation lingo. He said: "We thank you, Senators, for given us a great glorification. We thank you for given us de human rights." One of the republican members foresees that this style of oratory would only afford Cox and Eldridge some fun, cut the grateful orator very short, and gave an opportunity to the Rev. Sella Martin to speak his piece. Martin is a highly polished mulatto, and acquitted himself in a style that left little room for criticism. After explaining why the Bowen party should be recognized he spoke of the Bowen friends and mentioned an amusing anecdote in favor of general amnesty. A Kid-rider interrupted the speaker to know whether democrats should be included in the amnesty, to which Martin responded: "Yes, sir; now that I see the fifteen amendment accomplished I am ready, colored man as I am, to treat all men as my brethren. I wish by-gones to be by-gones, and charity and good will only to prevail in the future." At this magnificent utterance Cox and Eldridge smiled sarcastically.

Just about this time Captain Grant, Generalissimo of the Boys in Blue, appeared, and was introduced by Sumner Cox. Grant was against Bowen and pitched in to rough style. He declared that the genuine African republicans had made arrangements for a celebration on the 15th, and that the Bowen faction, in order to spoil that programme, had tried to get up another celebration to come off sooner. In order to make it more effective the Bowen men had sought Congressional recognition by having a resolution for the use of the Hall of Representatives on Wednesday night passed through false representations. He declared that the Bowenites were a parcel of impostors and political schemers, whose only object was to compass the re-election of Sayles J. Bowen to the Mayoralty. He (Grant) belonged to nobody; he was a free, independent man; he had spent his hundreds of dollars to organize the Boys in Blue, and he represented, though a white man, over three thousand colored voters of the district. The Bowenites only represented political hucksters.

Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, interrupted Captain Grant to say that he understood that the resolution passed by the House was to give the hall to the colored people. "Are you, sir," said Maynard, addressing Grant, "are you, sir, a colored man?" This caused a general laugh at Grant's expense, in the midst of which he subsided.

Downing, the colored orator, was the next speaker introduced, and commenced by saying that he thought the great object of the celebration and of this meeting ought to be to unite the party. "Oh, very well, then," said Cox, rising gravely. "If this is a party affair I think, Eldridge, you and I had better leave the affair to the republican members. We are comparatively new to the scene, and we ought to leave."

This created another laugh; but it was evident about this time that the rival colored factions were becoming highly excited. They were talking at

each other in furious style and seemed disposed to settle the quarrel in very unparliamentary fashion, when just in good season arrived a colored messenger from the House, out of breath, who announced that the resolution had been rescinded. "Rescinded! rescinded!" shouted a dozen in one breath, and looking furiously at the messenger. "Yes, gentlemen," said the messenger, "rescinded!" "Then," said one of the committee, "our labors are at an end; we are *functus officio*." "Punch and what?"—shouted one of the darkies in lively expectation of a free drink, evidently. "Yes," said Cox, "punch and pies will be supplied the whole party by our friend Downing, here." Downing suddenly disappeared at this hospitable announcement at his expense. "I think we cannot acquiesce *sine die*," said Eldridge, "unless we get some official or authentic information regarding the rescinding of the resolution." Hereupon the colored messenger shot out of the room and in a short time returned with Judge Kelcey, who entered bowing and shaking his hat very respectfully towards his colored citizens. "Those are not the committee," said Cox to Kelcey; "We white men are the committee." Judge Kelcey bowed very gravely to the committee and said, "Gentlemen, I had the honor to offer the resolution to rescind, which was carried. I did it (turning to the darkies) through no disrespect to the colored citizens, but because I think the hall ought not to be consecrated by allowing its use for nigger rights, female rights, or any other purpose outside of that for which it was originally intended. Good morning, gentlemen," and Kelcey left. The darkies of the Bowen persuasion were completely overwhelmed, while those on the other side shouted in triumph. The entire affair was one of the best comedies of the season.

Protecting Voters at Elections—Marked Ballots Prohibited.

Some busybody wrote a letter recently to Judge Lawrence, of Ohio, informing him that the Virginia Legislature had passed a law making it necessary for every person voting at the polls to have his name and residence written or printed on the outside of his ballot. The writer stated that the object was to "spoil" the negroes so that their employers might intimidate them and keep them from voting the republican ticket through fear of losing their places. To remedy this supposed evil Lawrence introduced a bill to-day which provides that no person shall be required to have his name written or printed upon the ballot he casts at the polls, the laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding. It further provides that any person causing the name of a voter to be written or printed on his ballot, or using any other means to identify said voter with a view of influencing his action at the polls, shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and on conviction shall be punished by a fine of \$1,000 and imprisoned one month.

The Polar Expedition.

Dr. Hayes has been here for some days past lobbying against the appropriation of \$100,000 for Captain Hall's expedition to the Pole Sea. The doctor is not a good lobbyist, he called. A distinguished official to solicit his influence against the appropriation, when the following dialogue took place:

OFFICIAL—What are your objections, Doctor, to Captain Hall?

Dr. HAYES—He is incompetent; is not a nautical man. To be sure he has resided among the Eskimoes, but that does not make him competent to command a sea-going vessel.

OFFICIAL—Do you propose to organize another expedition Polar seaward?

Dr. HAYES—Well, yes, some of my friends thought of asking aid for the purpose. Certainly, the expedition ought to be commanded by a nautical man.

OFFICIAL—Is it to be a nautical expedition?

Dr. HAYES—Most certainly.

A general discussion of some ten minutes here ensued, when the cross-examination was resumed as follows:

OFFICIAL—Doctor, how do you propose to reach the North Pole?

Dr. HAYES—I should like a small steam vessel to some point where I could plant a small colony, as a rendezvous, and then proceed overland to the Pole Sea, taking a couple of whaleboats along on sledges, drawn by dogs.

OFFICIAL—Doctor, don't you think Captain Hall is entitled to some credit for the discovery of the late of Sir John Franklin after all others had failed?

Dr. HAYES—Well, yes, Captain Hall is an energetic and worthy man. He is certainly a worthy man. He has done more for Polar exploration, according to the means furnished him, than all others put together, and therefore he deserves encouragement instead of derision.

This ended the conversation. Exit Dr. Hayes.

The Doctor appeared before the Appropriation Committee of the House to-day and made a statement similar to the one he made last week before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations concerning the proposed expedition to the Arctic regions. Captain Hall was also before the committee to urge his project of an appropriation of \$100,000 to outfit an expedition. Dr. Hayes disclaimed any feeling against the expedition of Captain Hall. If an expedition was sent out by the government he would see to it that it was a success. He argued that it should be entirely nautical and not undertake to make explorations by land. As there was no bill or resolution before the committee on the subject no action was taken.

National Academy of Sciences.

The National Academy of Sciences will hold its annual spring session in this city during the present week. The meetings for scientific communications take place in Lincoln Hall, commencing to-morrow at noon and are open to the public. All persons interested in scientific inquiry are invited to attend.

Discharged Soldiers Liable to the Income Tax.

Congressman Johnson has written a letter concerning the inquiries which have recently been made at the Internal Revenue Office by officers and soldiers of the late war with regard to the resolution of July 28, 1867, exempting soldiers' incomes from special tax imposed by the resolution of July 4, 1864, and asking if, under its provisions, they are not entitled to exemption of income taxes for 1869. The Commissioner, in his reply, which quotes the various laws of Congress on the subject of general and special income tax, says that the exemption is limited to the special tax imposed by the resolution of July 4, 1864, and has no reference whatever to the income of 1869.

Personal.

Secretary Robeson returned to Washington this morning and was at the Navy Department to-day. General Sherman has also returned.

President Grant and Secretary Beckham are expected to return this evening and Secretary Boutwell to-morrow.

THE LEGAL TENDER CASES.

Hearing of Arguments by the United States Supreme Court in the Legal Tender Cases Postponed.

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1870.

Mr. Potter, of New York, read to the Supreme Court this afternoon a letter from James M. Carlisle, who is now absent from Washington on professional business, upon the subject of the cases of Denning and Latham against the United States, which were set for argument to-day, and in which he stated that his associate counsel was suffering from severe indisposition. As a further reason why the cases should be postponed Mr. Potter said that the Attorney General's brief was filed only on Saturday night.

The Attorney General expressed his surprise at Mr. Carlisle's absence, as that gentleman was present in the court when the motion was made to argue those cases, which were still pending, not having been disposed of by the opinion in the other cases involving the legal tender question.

Chief Justice Chase remarked that, as the principle in the cases of Denning and Latham was settled by the decision pronounced by the Court, they were passed over.

Associate Justice Nelson made a similar remark. The Attorney General said he could only bow to the order of the court.

Associate Justice Miller did not understand that the cases to which reference was made had been passed over by the court.

The Chief Justice observed that it was so directed by the majority of the bench.

The Attorney General said he was not aware of it, as it took place before the commencement of the term of office. There was no record to show that there was any such understanding. He found here that the Bench were agreed, and that the Chief Justice was of importance to the public, he submitted motion for a re-argument. If the subject involving the constitutionality of the Legal Tender Act was to

be re-argued at all the sooner the better it would be for all parties concerned, as at this moment great interests pendency in connection with contracts made before the passage of the act and whether payments should be made in gold or legal tender notes. He had no objection under the circumstances stated by Mr. Potter to delay the argument for the coming of the court, but he desired it to be heard on the present term of the court. He was not in any private disposition would be injurious to both public and private interests. Mr. Carlisle, he stated, had called at his law office to see him on the legal tender question.

Mr. Potter replied that Mr. Carlisle's engagement elsewhere was a sufficient excuse for his absence, and besides the other counsel in them was ill. He could not see the propriety of postponing the case to the public if the argument would result to the benefit of the government. Nothing but the abstract question could be heard. The decision already made would be a precedent for the future. A hundred of the debts contracted eight years ago had long since been liquidated. He was at a loss to know how the question was to be settled. It was decided that it had been settled by this court. It was decided by the judges who heard the argument, and against whose decision the case was brought. He changed their minds he was at a loss to know how the question could otherwise be decided. He saw no reason why argument should be required.

Associate Justice Chase said that the question was whether there should be a continuation of time. The case having been set for a rehearing three of them, himself and Justices Strong and Swayne, of that end of the bench, would agree that the argument should be postponed until next Monday, but the other two justices of that end of the bench would not agree.

Chief Justice Chase was understood to say that the two cases of Denning and Latham were not argued because the principle they contained was argued in the other similar cases. It had been his duty to make this announcement.

After further conversation it was formally announced that the argument was postponed until next Monday.

Forty-First Congress.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1870.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented a report of the Massachusetts Legislature in favor of a postal telegraph service; also the memorial of members of the Universal Peace Society setting forth their object to be the disarmament of all the great Powers, and therefore asking Congress not to sanction the proposed enlargement of the West Point Military Academy.

TRANSPORTATION OF CATTLE BY RAILROAD.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution directing the Committee on Agriculture to inquire what legislation is necessary for the regulation of the transportation of cattle and other animals on railroads of the United States so as to secure for the animals sufficient ventilation.

Mr. SUMNER read from a letter explanatory of the whole matter, and the committee on Agriculture reported in favor of the resolution.

The Senate resumed its session on its amendments to the Deficiency Appropriation bill, and Messrs. Morrill of Maine, Sawyer of New Hampshire, and Maynard of Massachusetts were appointed a committee of conference.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

At forty minutes past one o'clock, the Northern Pacific Railroad bill, allowing the company to use its lands in the construction of its road, &c., was resumed.

Mr. THURMAN, (dem.) of Ohio, submitted an amendment to require the sale of alternate sections of land to actual settlers except such as is necessary for deposit and for railroad purposes. The amendment exceeded one hundred and sixty acres nor the deed there to be made out until the purchaser shall have occupied the land for a certain period of time.

Mr. THURMAN moved to amend the bill so as to exceed one dollar and a half, and to revert to the United States, and this resolution to depend upon the court of appeals.

Mr. THURMAN claimed the lands already granted were sufficient to build and equip the road, and argued against the granting of a land monopoly in the hands of the corporations.

Mr. CONKERN, (rep.) of Oregon, emphasized the importance of the bill, and urged its passage.

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The SPEAKER put the question on excluding Mr. B. E. LUDWIG—Aye, 100; Nay, 100. The bill was then passed.

The SPEAKER then read the gentleman serving on two committees.

Mr. LUDWIG—I do not put it on that ground, but on the ground that it is a Congressional duty, and is not required by the House, I will not serve on that committee.

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